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22 DEC 1948

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## GENERAL

Need for continuing US interest in Greece stressed--US Charge Rankin in Athens expresses the belief that any official and public manifestation of diminished US interest in Greece during the next few critical months might prove fatal to the Greek will to resist Communism. Rankin points out that the Greeks, almost alone of the peoples united with the US in resisting Communist expansion, are confronted with open warfare which is instigated and continued at Soviet behest. Rankin considers that the success of this technique in Greece would encourage the Communists to employ it elsewhere. He concludes that it would be extremely dangerous to make insufficient allowance for Greek morale factors when foreign aid appropriations are discussed again in the US Congress.

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